

ing ports **18**. In an embodiment, the primary power source **16** includes a single rechargeable battery. In the illustrated embodiment, the primary power source **16** includes a plurality of rechargeable batteries. The primary power source **16** can be formed from at least one lead-acid battery, NiMH, NiCD, Lithium ion, or other similar type of rechargeable battery. The primary power source **16** is attached to the housing **12** by way of a bracket **13**, thereby holding the primary power source **16** in place within the housing **12**.

[0018] In an embodiment, the primary power source **16** is directly connected (electrically) to each of the charging ports **18**. In the schematic diagram of another embodiment shown in FIG. 3, the primary power source **16** is operatively and electrically connected to a controller **17**, wherein the controller **17** is located within or on an exterior surface of the housing **12**. The controller **17** is configured to ensure proper conversion of the electrical power flowing into the primary power source **16** as well as ensure proper conversion of the electrical power flowing from the primary power source **16** to each of the charging ports **18**, as will be explained in more detail below.

[0019] The housing **12** of the charging station **10**, as shown in FIGS. 1-2, is generally square, wherein a pair of wheels **14** are rotatably connected to the rear of the housing **12** adjacent to opposing lateral sides thereof. The housing **12** includes a pair of handles **20** located on opposing lateral sides of the housing **12**, wherein each handle **20** is positioned adjacent to one of the wheels **14**. The handles **20** are configured to allow a user to lift and move the charging station **10** as well as allow the charging station **10** to be secured within a vehicle using tie-downs or straps (not shown). Each handle **20** is located within a detent or first recess **22** formed into each of the lateral sides of the housing **12**.

[0020] The housing **12** further includes a second recess **24** positioned adjacent to each of the first recesses **22**, as shown in FIGS. 1-2. A cover **26** is positioned over the second recess **24**, and the cover **26** is rotatably attached to the side portion or the front portion of the housing **12**. A first charging port **18a** is positioned beneath the cover **26** and operatively attached to the housing **12**. The first charging port **18a** is formed as a first type of connector such as a pair of studs **28** configured to allow jumper cables (not shown) to be attached to the pair of studs **28** such that the jumper cables extend between the studs **28** and a battery in an automobile, lawn maintenance vehicle, or any other vehicle or tool having a battery that can be charged by jumper cables. The first charging port **18a** is operatively and electrically connected to the primary power source **16**, wherein the primary power source **16** provides electrical power to the first charging port **18a** to power the device connected to the first charging port **18a**.

[0021] A plurality of second charging ports **18b** are positioned on the forwardly-directed surface of the housing **12**, as shown in FIG. 1. It should be understood by one having ordinary skill in the art that the second charging ports **18b** can be located on any single surface of the housing **12** or even being positioned on more than one surface of the housing **12**. The second charging ports **18b** are operatively and electrically connected to the primary power source **16**, wherein the primary power source **16** provides electrical power to the second charging ports **18b** to power the device(s) connected to the second charging port **18b**. The second charging ports **18b** are formed as a second type of

connector such as power outlets, or power receptacles, into which extension cords or power cords for powered handheld tools, electric mowers, or the like can be inserted. In the illustrated embodiment, the second charging ports **18b** include a pair of receptacles that provide fifteen (15) amp power, and another pair of receptacles that provide twenty (20) amp power. It should be understood by one having ordinary skill in the art that any number of receptacles providing any amperage can be used for the second charging ports **18b**. The second charging ports **18b** are formed of a different type of connector than the first charging port **18a**, thereby providing a user with different forms of connectors or ports for charging or providing power to larger variety of components, vehicles, or tools.

[0022] The charging station **10** further includes a power button **30**, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 3. The power button **30** is configured to switch the recharging (or power-providing) activity of the primary power source **16**, and thus the charging station **10** itself, between an active state and an inactive state. When the primary power source **16** is in an active state, the primary power source **16** provides power to each of the charging ports **18**. When the primary power source **16** is in an inactive state, the primary power source **16** does not provide power to any of the charging ports **18**. In another embodiment, the charging station **10** can include a plurality of power buttons **30** positioned on the housing **12**, wherein each of the power buttons is configured to selectively switch one charging port **18** (or a set of similar charging ports) between an active state and an inactive state. In an embodiment, the power button **30** is pulled out to switch the charging station **10** to an active state and pushed in to switch the charging station **10** to an inactive state. In the illustrated embodiment, the power button **30** is an on/off switch, but it should be understood by one having ordinary skill in the art that any mechanism can be used that allows an operator to easily switch the charging station **10** between an active state and an inactive state. As shown in FIG. 3, the power button **30** is operatively and electrically connected to the controller **17**.

[0023] The housing **12** further includes a lid **32** positioned on the top surface thereof, as shown in FIGS. 1-2. The lid **32** is either removable or rotatable relative to the top surface of the housing **12**. The lid **32** can be formed as a transparent material that allows a user to see through the lid **32**. In other embodiments, the lid **32** can be formed as an opaque material. The lid **32** provides protection for a plurality of charging ports **18** positioned thereunder.

[0024] The charging ports **18** positioned below the lid **32** include a plurality of third charging ports **18c**, as shown in FIG. 2. Each of the third charging ports **18c** is operatively and electrically connected to the primary power source **16**, wherein the primary power source **16** provides electrical power to each of the third charging ports **18c** to power the device(s) connected to the third charging ports **18c**. In an embodiment, each of the third charging ports **18c** are formed as a connector such as a recharging port configured to receive a replaceable secondary rechargeable battery **34**. The secondary rechargeable batteries **34** are selectively placeable into (or removed from) the third charging ports **18c** to be recharged using power transferred from the primary power source **16** to the secondary rechargeable battery **34** by way of the third charging port **18c** into which the secondary rechargeable battery **34** is placed. The third charging ports **18c** are configured to transfer the stored power from the